

## Andrew Jackson to Amos Kendall, August 9, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO POSTMASTER GENERAL KENDALL.1

1 Cincinnati *Commercial*, Feb. 4, 1879.

Rip Raps, August 9, 1835.

. . . . I have read with sorrow and regret that such men live in our happy country—I might have said monsters—as to be guilty of the attempt to stir up amongst the South the horrors of a servile war—Could they be reached, they ought to be made to atone for this wicked attempt, with their lives. But we are the instruments of, and executors of the law; we have no power to prohibit anything from being transported in the mail that is authorized by the law. The only thing that can be done is what you have suggested, verbally, to the postmaster in the city, “ *to deliver to no person these inflammatory papers* , but those who are really subscribers for them; and few men in society will be willing to acknowledge that they are encouraging by subscribing for such papers this horrid and most wicked proceeding; and when they are known, every moral and good citizen will unite to put them in coventry, and avoid their society. This, if adopted, would put their circulation down everywhere, for there are few so hardened in villainy, as to withstand the frowns of all good men.

Sincerely regret the breaking open the Post-office at Charleston, and seizing those inflammatory papers. This spirit of mob-law is becoming too common and must be checked, or ere long it will become as great an evil as a servile war, and as the innocent will be as much exposed to the cruelty and murderous [can not decipher]<sup>2</sup> as in the midst of a

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servile war—the instigators of both must be checked and punished, or we will soon have no safety under our happy Government of laws. But until Congress meets, and makes some arrangements by law, on this subject, we can do nothing more than direct that those inflammatory papers be delivered to none but who will demand them as subscribers; and in every instance the Postmaster ought to take the names down, and have them

2 This bracketted statement is in the *Commercial's* text.

exposed thro the publik journals as subscribers to this wicked plan of exciting the negroes to insurrection and to massacre. This would bring those in the South, who were patronizing these incendiary works into such disrepute with all the South, that they would be compelled to desist, or move from the country. . . .